

BA-77
11-12-77

UNCLASSIFIED

DD 260

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152015Z NOV 77

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TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☒ CHARGE TO

USIS

FROM: BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

N/A

SOPN, SHUM, AR

GOA AGAIN CONFISCATES NEWSPAPER

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO: USIA WASHDC

PRIORITY
PRIORITY

Ⓟ Soc 14

USIS 2

AMB

DCM

POL

POL R

CHRON

REF: BUENOS AIRES 8460

1. For the second consecutive week CORREO DE LA SEMANA

(circ. 5,000) has been confiscated by the GOA. The GOA represents said this issue of the weekly ~~xxx~~ "a new attempt to undermine the principle of authority". According to press reports CORREO reprinted last week's offending first page (see reftel) and carried a letter to the editor that made "offensive remarks about armed forces officers".

2. The BUENOS AIRES HERALD expressed its dismay with the GOA action in an editorial titled "The limits on press freedom". It said "both the press and the public would like to know exactly what is allowed and what is forbidden--what, in fact, are the ~~limits~~ to press freedom..." The HERALD added that the two GOA decrees "are surely unconstitutional measures..." and concluded

REF
Date Reason
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
() In Part () In Full
Exemption(s):
() Release () Excise () Deny

USIS:MOBrien/vp

DRAFTING DATE
11.15.77

TEL. EXT.
250

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY
DCM:MChaplin

REFERENCES:

PAO:JHiggins

IO:JCorr

POL:AHarris

AG-Freeman

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80F178
22/185

DECONTROL

ARGENTINA PROJECT (300000000)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/PS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

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"impatience with the press is understandable; but it is self-defeating. No government can be well-informed if it cannot count on an honest press. Intimidated newspapers never report what they should report nor say what they really think."

COMMENT: The GOA's action was taken by the Interior Ministry despite ~~XXXX~~ the recommendation of the Presidential Press Secretariat. It clearly illustrates a difference of opinion within the government on how to handle the press. So far the Interior Ministry has prevailed, to the annoyance of the Press Secretariat which must defend publically the ~~XXXXXX~~ Ministry's actions.

CASTRO

RH

*despite
contrary to*

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Classification